

81
C1
a topsheet, a backsheet joined to the topsheet, an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of barrier leg cuffs having a proximal edge and a distal edge and being positioned adjacent to the longitudinal edges of the containment assembly;

- (b) a pair of rear ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the rear waist region;
- (c) a pair of front ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the front waist region; and
- (d) a reinforcement nonwoven joined immediately adjacent to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet and to at least one of either the rear ear panels or the front ear panels, the reinforcement nonwoven not substantially overlapping the containment assembly.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the examination of the above-identified application.

This response fully addresses the issues raised in the aforementioned Advisory Action. No new matter has been added in this response.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner repeated the rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Suzuki (EP 040832). The Examiner stated the following:

“In reference to the 102 rejection of claims 1-10, applicant argues Suzuki does not teach a reinforcement nonwoven joined to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet. The argument is not persuasive in that while Suzuki does disclose a topsheet between the reinforcement nonwoven and the backsheet, Suzuki does provide a reinforcement nonwoven indirectly joined to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet. The ‘comprising’ language used in claim 1 is open-ended and does not exclude the presence of other elements.”

Applicants traverse the rejection and request reconsideration and withdrawal in view of the amended claim 1 and the following arguments.